



## Department of Veterans Affairs Pension & Special Monthly Pension Benefit

### What Is VA Pension?

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. It is also paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

### Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- the veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled (veterans only; not applicable for survivors), **OR**
- you are age 65 or older (veterans only; not applicable for survivors).

**\*Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service since August 2, 1990 is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

### What Is Enhanced Or Special Monthly Pension?

**AID AND ATTENDANCE (A&A)** is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a Veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment, **OR**
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**
- You have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less in both eyes or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

**HOUSEBOUND** is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a claimant who is substantially confined to his or her home because of permanent disability.

### How Does VA Determine The Amount They Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit that describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of a dependent) that are unreimbursed and paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable family income.

### How Can You Apply?

You can receive FREE assistance in completing the necessary VA forms from your Leon County Veterans Service Division as well as complete case management throughout the process. Information regarding the veteran's military service (DD214 or equivalent), current and previous marriages the veteran and spouse, gross income, assets (account balances, real property, etc.), medical records (if living veteran is under age 65) and medical expenses paid in the last 12 months. Additional information may be required as needed including forms regarding Special Monthly Pension (Housebound or Aid and Attendance).



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